



THE SALTIRE



1884

The St. Andrew-Caledonian Society of Calgary

1912

Tartan Day 2024

Tartan Day 2024 will start Saturday, 6 April, 4:00pm with a social get-together at Murdoch's Pub, 1935 — 37th Street SW. Plans include: membership prizes, Scottish trivial pursuit, highland dancing, piping, singing, Scottish Country Dancing, the Mayor's

Proclamation, and much more. Murdoch's will be putting on a limited Tartan Day menu just for this day. Come out and enjoy and bring a friend.



PROCLAMATION

One of the most important icons of Scotland and its culture is the Tartan, an emblem for clan kinship. *Tartan Day* celebrates Scottish heritage and the contributions made by Scots to Canada and countries around the world.

Whereas: Calgary has a distinguished connection with Scotland, and the Scots helped shape the city we have today;

Whereas: The Calgary Tartan was adopted by Calgary City Council on July 14, 2003 and celebrates the vibrant and influential role of Scottish immigrants and their descendants in our community;

Whereas: The St. Andrew-Caledonian Society is entrusted as a guardian to promote and manage this symbol of Calgary.

On behalf of City Council and Calgarians, I hereby proclaim April 6, 2024 as:

TARTAN DAY

Jyoti Gondek
JYOTI GONDEK
MAYOR



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May Ceilidh Dance

Society members Dr. Dhanya Baird and Dr. Adam Dahmer are calling a cèilidh dance on Saturday, the 11th of May, from 7pm to 11pm at the Capitol Hill Community Hall, 1531 - 21st Ave NW. Musical accompaniment will be provided by Prairie Flower! All dances will be called and walked, and no prior experience or pre-arranged partner is necessary - feel free to come solo, or with friends! . The upcoming cèilidh will likely feature several dances not danced at the most recent cèilidh, including the Highland Scottishe, the partner-switching version of the Gay Gordons (aka. The Belgian Dance or the Dutch Dance), the Boston Two Step, the Hooligan's Jig, and the Cumberland Square Eight! Dancers will have access to a range of light snacks, and a cash bar. Tickets are \$20 for members (\$35 for non-members includes membership) and can be purchased at the door on the night, or online in advance (recommended) through the website of the Society. In the meantime, if you'd like to register your interest, just send your name and contact info to atdahm01@gmail.com, with the subject line 'May Cèilidh', and we'll keep you abreast of future developments.

Doors will open at 6.30pm, the dancing will start shortly after 7pm, and the venue will empty at 11pm.

Chì sinn an sin sibh! (We'll see you there!) *Adam Dahmer*

Kirkin' 2024

The Society is celebrating tartan and Scottish culture on Sunday, 26 May 2024 at Knox United Church,, 4th Street & 6th Avenue SW. Please arrive by 10:15am to be seated for the 10:30am service.. Members are encouraged to wear their tartan, tell their friends—all are welcome, and bring a sample to be part of the procession and blessing ceremony. Parking is free on the street around the church.



Annual General Meeting 2024

The Society's Annual General meeting will be held at the Capitol Hill Community Hall, 1531 - 21st Ave NW on Saturday 8 June 2024. The day starts at 3:00pm with a social time followed by field games at 3:30pm with potato races, foot races, and other games. The AGM starts at 4:30pm and will consist of the following items:

The meeting will present for membership approval:

1. the 2023 AGM minutes,
2. the Annual Report for 2023,
3. the audited financial statements of 2023,
4. ratification of the 2022 Board actions,
5. the Slate of Directors for the Board,
6. membership dues, and,
7. appointment of auditors

Robert Henderson

Board Member Opportunities

The Society's Board of Directors is looking for members who would like to get involved with the operation of Society events and activities. The Board is the place for those who would like to make a difference in the Society. Board positions are elected for two year terms, and meetings are usually held the first Saturday afternoon of the month. A Director would be expected to take on a project during their term to determine: 1. the funding required, 2. source of the funds, 3. the member participation and, 4. to bring the project to commencement and/or to completion. Interested members are asked to contact Andrew Joo at andrewjoo@msn.com via an email indicating their interest, or if they are proposing someone as a candidate, .The Board appreciates your consideration. *Andrew Joo*

75 Years of Scottish Country Dancing in Calgary

At The Society's Executive Meeting, held Tuesday, 22 February 1949, held in the Calgary Herald Board Room, Mrs. J McDermott proposed the formation of a square dancing school. Miss E Rankine made the motion that the Society start a Scottish Square Dancing School. All approved and Calgary's first Scottish Country dancing group was formed. A committee was formed with: Mr. W Marshall, Mr. & Mrs. Jas Smith, Mr. Andrew Mitchell, Mr. J Archer, Mr. Peter Heigh, Mrs. J McDermott, Miss E Rankine, Mrs. J Gray, Mrs James Seller and Miss Nan Irvine. The first Scottish Country Dance Instructor in Calgary was Evelyn Leinweber who was later a founding member of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society—Calgary Branch.

Burns Night 2024

The Society's Burns Night was held on Saturday, 27 January 2024 at the Polish Canadian Cultural Centre, with 110 members and friends in attendance. Before dinner, the company was entertained by the Society pipers and the Wilson School highland dancers followed by the Society Gaelic Choir. The pipers played in the Haggis which was ably addressed by Andrew Auchterlonie, the Society Treasurer. A three course buffet dinner followed which included haggis, roast beef and chicken. The Immortal Memory was presented by Malcolm Stewart which included a reference to Bob Dylan, the Toast to the Lassies by David Aftergood based on Maple Syrup, and a clever Reply by Margot Aftergood. This was followed by an evening of Scottish Country dancing to the music of the Scott Duncan Trio which was well received. The Society began this event in Calgary in 1886, and the tradition continues with one of the City's oldest cultural functions.

Ann Vanderwal



Kilt Skate 2024

An amazing 10th Annual Calgary Kilt Skate was held on Sunday February 11th. The weather was perfect, sunny and +4C for the annual event that takes place with bare knees on skates on Olympic Plaza ice in downtown Calgary. This year again, we were part of the Calgary Chinook Blast Winter Festival, which provided excellent stage and audio experiences for the public. As in previous years, we had the Society's St. Andrews Caledonian Choir, under the extremely capable direction of Bethanne Friesen start off the festivities with a wonderful rendition of



O'Canada in Gaelic and English. This was followed by several favorite Scottish song selections.

We were also treated to a wonderful exhibition of highland dancing by dancers from the Wendy Wilson's School of Highland Dancing. The dances were expertly accompanied by our Society president and renowned local piper, Robert Henderson. Thereafter, the Scottish Society pipers played a selection of pipe songs that included a popular rendition of Amazing Grace.

There were lots of Kilt Skaters whirling around the Olympic Plaza ice as over 150 cups of Tim Hortons Hot Chocolate and Timbits were served to the skaters.

Finally, we had some good local media coverage of the event including City TV news, Global news and the Calgary Herald, who showed up to take picture and publish them for public distribution.

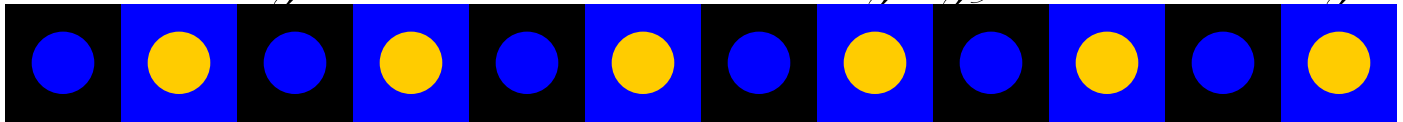
Everyone had a very enjoyable afternoon, and we are looking forward to next year's 11th edition. *David Aftergood*

The Society's Winter Cèilidh Dance 2024

On the evening of the 24th of February, the Society held its inaugural cèilidh dance of 2024! The event took place in the main hall of the Capitol Hill Community Centre.

Doors opened to the public at 6.30pm, the dancing itself commenced at 7pm and lasted till 10pm, and the venue closed at 11pm. The dance went exceedingly well, and several members and friends of the Society were instrumental to the evening's success. Members Robert Earl and Ann Vanderwhal worked the bar and managed the event booking, respectively; members Adam Dahmer and Dhanya Baird taught, walked, and called the various cèilidh dances; and the musician's collective, Prairie Flower (members of which are frequent performers at other Society events), served as the live dance band for the event. On this occasion, the featured musicians included Erin McCulloch, the band leader, on guitar; Gayla Roberts, on bòdhran; and Kat Kerr, on fiddle. In the course of the evening, the callers led ten dances: the Gay Gordons, the Dashing White Sergeant, the Virginia Reel, the St. Bernard's Waltz, the Canadian Barn Dance, the Riverside Jig, the Flying Scotsman, the Spanish Waltz, the Orcadian Strip the Willow, and Auld Lang Syne (with a subsequent free-style polka). Most of the dancers danced every dance that was called, and at no point aside from intermissions were there fewer than sixteen dancers on the dance floor. The attendees were overwhelmingly positive and the Society will continue its cèilidh dance program in the summer! *Adam Dahmer*

Celebrating Scottish Culture in Calgary for over a century



Society Casino 2025

The Society's next casino will be in the third quarter (July-September) 2025 and we have applied for the Ace Airport Casino, 40 Aero Crescent NE. Their website is: www.acecasinos.ca and they are located off Deerfoot Trail & Airport Trail next to the Clique Hotel. More details will be made available once our date has been drawn, but we will be looking for general managers, alternate general managers, bankers, cashiers, chip runners, Count room supervisors and count room staff. Your participation helps Calgary's Scottish community activities and is greatly appreciated.



Member Benefits

Benefits of Society membership include:

- reduced rates for pipers at your function,
- 10% discount on purchases at the Highland Scottish Gift Shoppe,
- Free entry to the Foothills Highland Games,
- Free entry to the Calgary Highland Games,
- Free entry to the Canmore Highland Games.
- \$2.00 reduction in the regular adult admission to the Globe Theatre 617—8th Avenue SW.

Members should consider renewing for several years to avoid missing any activities or events.

The St. Andrew-Caledonian Society
Of Calgary

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